

HB 969 State Board of Dental Examiners Membership, Training and Disciplinary Process

Dr Thomas R. a'Becket March 2, 2022

FAVORABLE with Amendments

This bill is in 4 parts

Part 1 Nomination Process

OPPOSE this is the most problematic section it changes the process and eliminates SBDE Balloting process. Reasoning current system is not complicated, any recognized National Dental Groups can nominate one dentist and any resident who is a licensed Maryland Dentist can by petition with 10 signatures of licensed dentists be placed on the ballot. The tally is forwarded to the Governor for the selection and then is confirmed by the State Senate. The changes 1 create mandatory criteria for individual selection based on business model (not defined), 2 must treat Medicaid patients (aren't all patients equal) and 3 a consumer member must have been a Medicaid patient (to me this could a stigma to the individual). No balloting by SBDE, this removes in part a peer review of those seeking to protect the public, both the dentists and the patients we serve. Just remove this section from the bill. FYI The SBDE would like to get out of the business of the balloting due to their chronic short staffing compliant.

Part 2 Board Training

SUPPORT Training for all Board members under the auspices of the Attorney General not outside Counsel with additional financial requirements. The parameters of said training to be determined by the Maryland General Assembly. Is one hour enough??

Part 3 Final Decisions

SUPPORT Final Decisions to be issued in 120 unless good cause such as licensee requests for delays or pandemic related issues. If Board fails in its duty, then a decision in favor may be entered by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Part 4 Summary Suspension

SUPPORT Summary suspensions to protect the health, safety and welfare of patients, if complaint does not meet these criteria the normal process should apply.

With these points in mind, I urge HB 969 receive a FAVORABLE Report with ADMENTMENTS.

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